

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Summer 1994 Volume 64 Number 3



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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Summer 1994

Volume 64, Number 3

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FRONT COVER: California Gull, Carter Lake, Pottawattamie County, 22 November 1993. Photograph by B. J. Rose, Omaha, Nebraska.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information, Instructions to Authors, Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

28-30 October 1994, Pella  
19-21 May 1995, Ida Grove  
8-10 September 1995, Davenport

## FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

- \*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)
- \*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)
- \*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)
- \*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

\*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

## IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

## I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014):

- \*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.
- \*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1992 Edition: 6 for \$1.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

## REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Pam Allen, 1601 Pleasant St., West Des Moines, IA 50265.

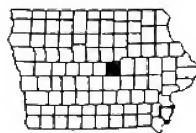
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# HAWK WATCHING IN MARSHALL COUNTY

BETH PROESCHOLDT

Hawk watching is exciting! It is addictive! There is nothing like the hope of seeing some fabulous hawk right overhead to hurry me out to a hawk watch on an autumn morning.

Hawks are strong fliers but if they can conserve their energy, they will. One such way is by using thermals, bubbles of rising warm air formed by slight differences in temperature. Hawks will soar in a thermal, gaining altitude and then, if they are lucky, gliding on set wings to another thermal where they repeat the process. By moving from one thermal to another, hawks can migrate along a broad front. Over much of North America, this is the usual pattern of hawk migration.



Another energy-saving tactic is their using updrafts which alter their broad-front migration. Updrafts are formed when wind strikes a ridge and is deflected upward. Many hawks, especially the large soaring species like buteos and eagles, will ride those cushions of air for miles. In the Appalachians, for example, with ridges running northeast to southwest, hawk flights often concentrate along these ridges. Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania and other mountainous sites are great spots to watch thousands of hawks heading south.

Many species of raptors are reluctant to cross large bodies of water and will fly instead along the edges of land, sometimes in huge concentrations. At Cape May, New Jersey, and Duluth, Minnesota, for example, thousands of hawks are counted in autumn.

In addition, hawks will follow rivers and their wooded margins if there are no other geographic "leading lines", as happens in Iowa. Our hawk watch is at one of these places. Not an auspicious spot like some of the famous watches, it nevertheless draws me like a magnet.

We watch hawks at Grammer Grove Wildlife Area in northwestern Marshall County. The site we have chosen is on a ridge about 3/8 of a mile east of the river and parallel to the Iowa River which flows through Iowa in generally a southeasterly direction. Essentially it is a wide open bird blind with trees (too many trees) to the north and south, and with a total width of about 70 feet.

Not a high, open spot with visibility for miles, it often necessitates fast calls resulting in several "accipiter species" or "unidentified hawks" being recorded. But since we are almost hidden, the birds are often very close: low flying sharpshins zip through at eye level, a peregrine flashes through the gap a few feet away, or a Merlin blasts over our heads.

As with all migration, weather fronts are another factor which concentrate hawk flights. Conventional wisdom holds that at most hawk watches the best flights follow a cold front with strong north or northwest winds-the day after a front being best, and if one is lucky, two days after.

We have found this to be true and watch the autumn weather forecasts carefully. We have also found that sometimes the day before a cold front produces good flights, and sometimes just as a front is moving in.

During the autumn of 1993 the largest flights were twice before a cold front: 22 September with 494 raptors (423 of them broadwings) and 1 October with 201 (93 of them sharpshins). Three days were after a cold front: 23 September with 172, 9 October with 94 (9 of those Bald Eagles) and 83 on 10 October, the second day after

the front. On 28 September we had 125 hawks flying over on brisk northwest winds, although there was seemingly no front.

**Table 1.** Hawks observed at Grammer Grove Wildlife Area during fall migration, 1990-1993.

Species	1990	1991	1992	1993
Turkey Vulture	50	33	100	193
Osprey	16	12	18	10
Bald Eagle	2	2	8	18
eagle species	0	1	0	1
Northern Harrier	10	4	11	16
Sharp-shinned Hawk	199	162	284	366
Cooper's Hawk	47	55	113	56
accipiter species	18	12	12	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	0	0	1	5
Broad-winged Hawk	201	92	413	579
Swainson's Hawk	1	1	2	2
Red-tailed Hawk	213	561	339	373
Rough-legged Hawk	0	1	0	0
Golden Eagle	1	0	5	1
buteo species	26	32	6	9
American Kestrel	20	46	28	43
Merlin	4	9	1	5
Peregrine Falcon	2	2	1	4
falcon species	3	7	3	0
unidentified raptors	12	24	17	15
total raptors	825	1,056	1,362	1,706
total species	13	13	14	14
total hours	73	86	100	105
first date of watch	7 Sep	11 Sep	9 Sep	6 Sep
last date of watch	13 Oct	30 Oct	21 Nov	29 Oct

Sometimes I don't know why they move--or why they don't. On 22 September with 494 hawks moving in only 3.5 hours of observation I had three ideas: the hawks must have been held up with all of the rain and fog and clouds of several days and finally moved even though it was still cloudy; or they were moving ahead of the cool front that came through that night; or the winds were finally good from the northwest (about 8-12 mph) and they moved, or a combination of all three. It's puzzling.

One year, on 20 September 1986, after several days of clouds, fog, and rain, the skies cleared at noon, and Mark and I hurried out to count 187 hawks flying south on brisk east-southeast winds with a temperature of 75 degrees. The next day, 21 September, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with southeast winds and temperatures of

77-86 degrees, we counted 1,073 hawks: 923 broadwings, 108 sharpshins, 11 Cooper's, 2 kestrels, 5 Osprey, 3 redtails, and 10 unidentified accipiters. This apparently was a result of hawks being stalled during uncooperative weather and moving as soon as it cleared even with southeast winds and warm temperatures.

This watch is not as closely monitored as it could be. I go out almost every day from early September to the end of October, sometimes for only an hour if it is not a good flight, to seven hours if it is. Often I am joined by friends who are as hooked on hawks as I am.

While the counts from this site cannot compare with more favored spots, it is good to know that there are hawks that follow a rather minor river across the more or less flat state of Iowa. The anticipation of seeing wonderful hawks (will it be a Merlin today? a kettle of broadwings? an immature Golden Eagle?) is like a siren song calling me to Grammer Grove.

Table 1 shows the total number of hawks I have seen here the past four years. No real conclusions can be drawn from these however. If the watch were manned every day from 9:00 to 4:00 and for the same number of days, meaningful comparisons could be made. But, instead, these numbers can be viewed only as a sample of what might be recorded at Grammer Grove if hawks were counted every day.

*Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148*

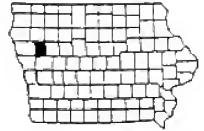


*Cinnamon Teal  
Dickinson County  
11 April 1994  
Photograph by Ed Thelen*

# BIRDING MOOREHEAD PARK IN IDA COUNTY

PETER ERNZEN

Moorehead Park is located just west of Ida Grove on the north side of highway 175. The park consists of about 252 acres, half of which is timber. This 125 acres and the surrounding private timber make up half of the timber in Ida County. The timber was used primarily for construction and was grazed extensively in years past. The park was the original home site for John Moorehead, the first European settler in Ida County.



The timber is relatively young, most of the trees being 100-150 years old. However, several of the older white and bur oaks have massive crowns with horizontal branching, indicating oak savannah. In addition to the oak savannah, three other woodland communities occur at Moorehead. These are willow-lined streams, mature oaks with considerable understory, and a small riparian woods dominated by soft maple. An extensive trail system, easily accessible from the park road, will take you through all of the above-mentioned habitats.

I believe the reasons for so many good sightings at this park has more to do with location and island effect than with the habitat available. Ida County is located on the western edge of the migration route of many passerines. With half of the timber of Ida County in and around Moorehead Park, I believe that an island effect is also at work; there simply is no other place for these birds to stop during their migration.

The best place for early returning warblers appears to be along the stream just south of the pond (see Figure 1). Other good areas include the riparian habitat on the extreme southeastern boundary of the park. This area is bordered on the south by the Maple River. As migration progresses, check out the oak savannah area north of the old depot. This area consistently has good numbers of Blackburnian and many other common warbler species. Nearby, a trail starts at the top of the ridge and winds its way north along the western side of the park. This trail eventually leads to a parking lot; from here take the trail that goes past the restrooms and cross the suspended bridge. This area of the park has always been good for finding Mourning Warblers late in migration.

Approximately 100 feet from the bridge there is a fork in the trail. The trail to the left will wind its way up over a steep ridge. As you begin your walk, watch the stream to your left; many species of warblers have been seen here. This is also a consistently good place to find Golden-winged and Magnolia warblers. If you follow the path over the top of the hill, it will eventually rejoin the trail you were on to begin with. You may head back to the beginning or continue on this trail. For a more detailed description, stop at the park office and request a trail map guide. There are many trails throughout this park, and it is small enough to get from one end to the other on a leisurely afternoon or morning walk. It is also small enough so that you cannot get lost.

The best time to visit Moorehead Park is during spring migration. Fall migration is good, but it occurs over a more extended time period. In spring, birds start their return in late April and build through the first week of May. The past three years, warbler migration has peaked here on about 12 May.

Approximately 182 of the 227 bird species recorded in Ida County have been observed at Moorehead Park. Highlighting the many passerines are 31 species of warblers. All of the more common eastern warblers have been seen here. These



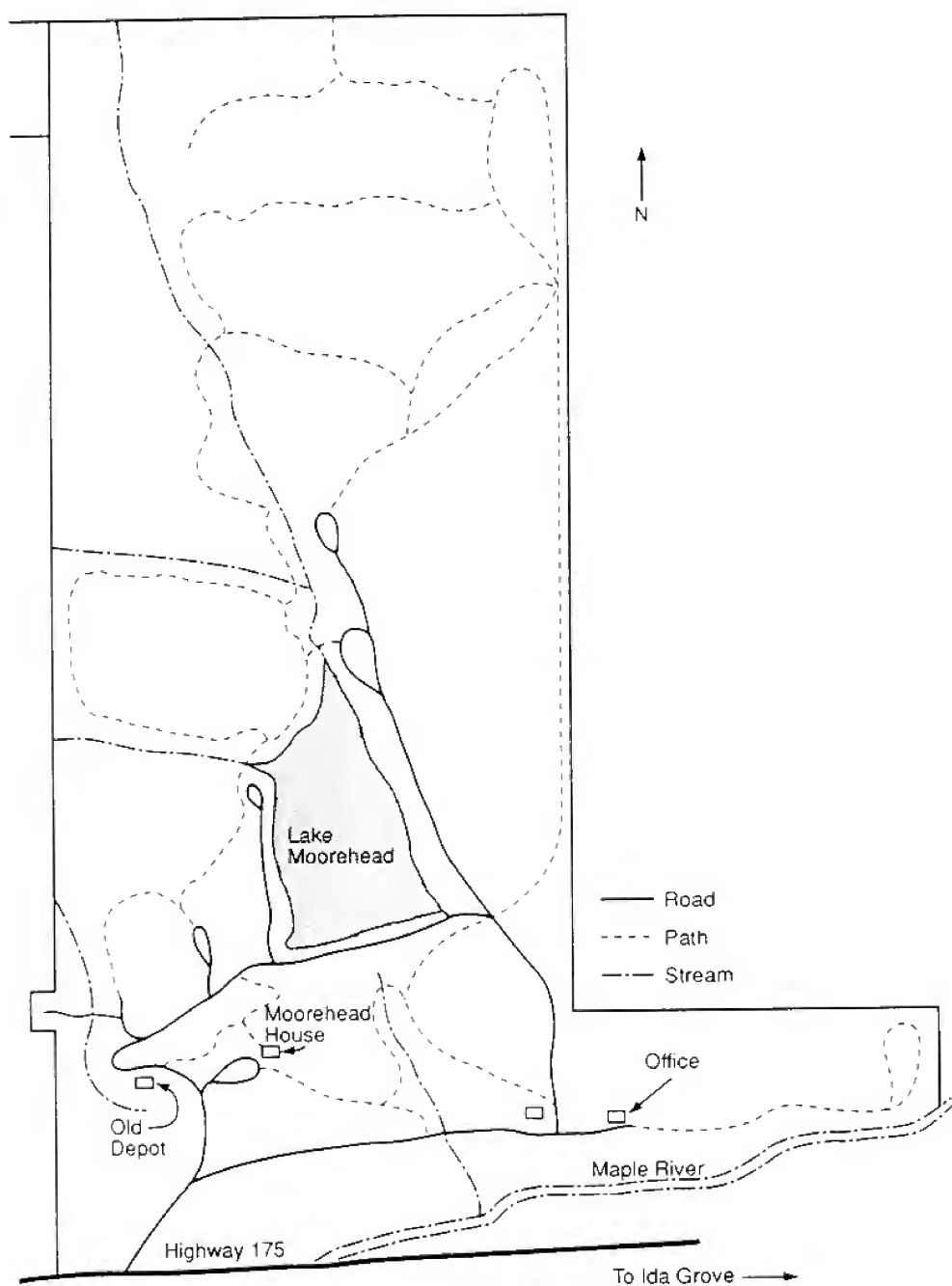


Figure 1. Moorehead Park in Ida County. Not drawn to scale.

include Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Mourning, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, and Golden-winged warblers, all of which occur in fairly good numbers. One of the real strengths of this park is its ability to attract rarities, some of which are difficult to find even in eastern Iowa. In the past three years of regular birding in the park, I have seen Connecticut, Hooded, Blue-winged, Northern Parula, and Black-throated Blue warblers in the park. This past spring I saw Louisiana Waterthrush and Cape May and Cerulean warblers in the park.

In addition to warblers, some of the other woodland species found here include Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Olive-sided Flycatcher, four species of migrant thrushes, and most of the common sparrows. Wood Thrushes nested here in 1993.

A pond located in the middle of the park attracts many of the early waterfowl and an occasional grebe. Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, and Black-crowned Night-Herons have also visited the pond. Perhaps the most unusual bird found on the pond was a White-winged Scoter that made a brief appearance in fall 1993.

Winter birding can be slow. However, Northern Saw-whet Owls have been found yearly in recent years in the pine plantings scattered throughout the park.

*401 Taylor, Ida Grove, IA 51445*

## FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

The two lead articles in the September 1944 issue of Iowa Bird Life were about Northern Saw-whet Owls. Authors Mrs. Harold Peasley and T. C. Stephens discussed the occurrence, distribution, and food habits of saw-whets in Polk and Woodbury counties respectively. In another article, Myrle and Margaret Jones presented the results from the second spring bird census held in May 1944. About 95 birders found 176 species on nine counts across the state. Among several short notes, one reported finding five Piping Plovers nests near Council Bluffs and another described a successful Greater Prairie-Chicken nest near Seymour in Wayne County. Perhaps the most intriguing note was one listing a number of projects for the I.O.U. that Philip DuMont had proposed in his talk at the annual meeting. Among them were preparing a bibliography on ornithology in Iowa, establishing breeding bird censuses throughout the state, expanding the spring bird count, establishing a repository for important bird specimens, and preparing an ornithological history of the state. Although some of the suggestions have been implemented in the past 50 years, others are still waiting for someone to undertake the project. Finally, editor Pierce reviewed the second volume of Margaret Nice's landmark life history study of the Song Sparrow. He suggested that this study would form the base for many future studies of bird behavior, a prediction that still holds true today.--ed.

# REPORT OF THE RECORDS COMMITTEE FOR 1993

THOMAS H. KENT

The Records Committee reviewed 38 records from 1993 (including one received in 1994). Of these, 31 were accepted and 7 were not. Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Reddish Egret, Ross's Gull, and Black-throated Sparrow were added to the state list. The status of Trumpeter Swan was changed from Extirpated to Regular. Reviews of two records from 1992 were completed and both were new to the state list: Glossy Ibis and Western Flycatcher species. A record of Black-billed Magpie from 1990, which had not been previously reviewed, was accepted. Of the 1993 records, 21 were gulls.

A special subcommittee was appointed to review old records of Accidental species that had not been previously reviewed. Of 213 records reviewed, 62 were Accepted and 151 were Not Accepted. Members of the subcommittee were: Carl J. Bendorf, Robert I. Cecil, James J. Dinsmore, Thomas H. Kent, and W. Ross Silcock.

At the request of one committee member, 37 records were rereviewed by the main committee. Of these, 21 were changed from Not Accepted to Accepted and 5 were changed from Accepted to Not Accepted. Three species were dropped from the state list: Black-shouldered Kite, Three-toed Woodpecker, and Sprague's Pipit.

Committee members for 1993 with years in which their terms expire were: Eugene Armstrong (1994), Robert I. Cecil (1995), Tanya E. Bray (1996), Raymond L. Cummins (1997), Francis L. Moore (1998), Ann M. Johnson (1998), and Thomas H. Kent (secretary, appointed by the committee).

The committee had brief meetings on 15 May and 25 September 1993. At a meeting on 14 August 1994, some of the decisions on old records were modified and a 1993 record received in 1994 was evaluated. Results of the 1994 meeting that pertain to 1993 and older records are included in this report.

The four-digit number (year and sequence number) assigned to each record reviewed by the Records Committee is included for future reference. For old records not previously reviewed, the year is the year of first review and the sequence number is one or two letters. Records are classified as follows: A = Accepted (-S = specimen, -P = photograph, -R = Recording, -D = documented sight record, -O = origin uncertain, possible escaped or introduced species) and NA = Not Accepted. The category A-O was changed from A-E because the definition was not used consistently to indicate only those birds whose origin was uncertain. Previous records will be modified to meet the more precise definition; i.e., an obvious escaped bird or non-established introduced bird will be classified NA. References to *IBL* are the page of the Field Reports in *Iowa Bird Life* where the record is cited. References to *American Birds* are to the page for photographs. P- numbers refer to the IOU Photo File entry number. Published notes and previous citations may contain more details. An \* indicates a previously uncited documentation.

## 1992 RECORDS ACCEPTED

**Glossy Ibis:** 92-29: A bird in alternate plumage was photographed next to a White-faced Ibis near Union Slough N.W.R. on 4 May 1992 by \*Bobbi Webber and on 5 May by \*Dave Bunkofsky (Kenne 1994). The photographs were reviewed by Robert B. Janssen and Bruce A. Fall of Minneapolis and J. V. Remsen of Louisiana State University.

**Western Flycatcher species:** 92-38: Photographs and documentations of this very unusual bird found at L. Ahquabi on 14 and 15 Nov 1992 (P-0346, P-0347, P-0348, P-0389, *IBL* 63:19, Johnson 1994)

were reviewed by California experts Kevin J. Zimmer of Atascadero and Peter Pyle of Point Reyes Bird Observatory.

## 1993 RECORDS ACCEPTED

**Brown Pelican:** 93-09: One at Rathbun Res. on 30-31 May was photographed (*IBL* 63:72, P-0384, P-0387).

**Reddish Egret:** 93-20: A juvenile west of Colfax from 5 to 10 Sep was a first for Iowa and one of very few from the Upper Midwest (*IBL* 64:10, P-0406).

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 93-21: One shot on 24 Oct at Blue L. in Monona Co. was photographed and preserved as a specimen at Iowa State University (#2611, P-0409, *IBL* 64:11). 94-AA: A male shot on 1 Nov 1993 at Big M. in Butler Co. is a specimen at Iowa State University (#2612). Based on recent population expansion in Texas, increase in extralimital records, seasonal pattern of extralimital records (May to November), lack of markings or tags on Iowa birds, and rarity in captivity in Iowa, these two records and three old ones were changed at the 1994 meeting from category A-O to A-S, A-P, and A-D, as appropriate.

**Trumpeter Swan:** 93-29: Two adults and an immature at L. Manawa on 13 Dec were accepted in category A-D (*IBL* 64:46). Based on this record and others over the last ten years, the committee voted to change the status of this species from Extirpated to Regular. Iowa records of this species may be released/escaped birds, offspring of recently released/escaped birds, or from established reintroduced populations. In addition to the established population in South Dakota/Nebraska and the probably established population in Minnesota, there are newly released/escaped birds from Wisconsin and Iowa that may be seen. The committee requests that all Trumpeter Swans be documented so that we can continue to study the expansion of this species. Listers should follow American Birding Association guidelines for counting this species.

**Gyr Falcon:** 93-22: An immature near Spirit L. on 28 Sep was seen by many observers (*IBL* 64:12).

**Black-necked Stilt:** 93-10: Two were at Amana L. on 20 May and one was photographed the next day (P-0386, *IBL* 63:75, Kent 1994).

**Laughing Gull:** 73-24: A juvenile was photographed at Saylorville Res. on 18 Sep (*IBL* 64:13, P-0412).

**Mew Gull:** 93-30: A first-winter bird was at Red Rock Res. on 19 Dec (*IBL* 64:48). 93-37: An adult was at Saylorville Res. on 20 Dec (*IBL* 64:48).

**California Gull:** 93-25: An adult at Carter L. from 21 to 23 Nov was photographed (P-0414, *IBL* 64:13, Bray 1994). 93-31: A first-winter bird was seen at Saylorville Res. on 6 and 19 Dec (*IBL* 64:48).

**Iceland Gull:** 93-02: A first-winter bird at Iowa City from 16 to 30 Jan was photographed (P-0355, *IBL* 63:49). 93-04: An adult was at Lock and Dam 14 on 31 Jan (*IBL* 63:49). 93-06: A first-winter bird was at Credit Is. on 14 Feb (*IBL* 63:49).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** 93-14: An adult was at L. Macbride on 16 Apr (*IBL* 63:75). 93-32: An adult was at Coralville Res. on 11 and 19 Dec (*IBL* 64:48). 93-33: An adult was at Des Moines on 21 Dec (*IBL* 64:48).

**Great Black-backed Gull:** 93-07: A first-winter bird was at Bettendorf on 28 Feb (*IBL* 63:49). 93-34: A first-winter bird was at Keokuk on 25 Dec (*IBL* 64:49).

**Ross's Gull:** 93-26: An adult bird beginning to molt to basic plumage was at Red Rock Res. on 31 Oct and 1 Nov and was photographed (P-0407, P-0408, P-0413, *Amer. Birds* 48:116, *IBL* 64:13).

**Sabine's Gull:** 93-27: A juvenile was at Red Rock Res. on 23 Oct (*IBL* 64:13, Proescholdt 1994).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** 93-15: A male at a feeder near Rippey in Greene Co. on 20 and 21 May was a unique spring record for the Midwest (*IBL* 63:76).

**Black-billed Magpie:** 93-1F: One found at Sioux City on 29 Dec 1990 (*IBL* 61:50, 58) escaped previous review.

**Rock Wren:** 93-26: One in Warren Co. on 25 Apr was photographed (P-0383, P-0392, *IBL* 63:77, Johnson 1994).

**Mountain Bluebird:** 93-08: A female was at Big Creek S.P. on 4 Jan (*IBL* 63:50).

**Nashville Warbler:** 93-35: One was found at Iowa City on 19 Dec (*IBL* 64:50).

**Common Yellowthroat:** 93-36: One was found at Montrose on 26 Dec (*IBL* 64:50).

**Western Tanager:** 93-17: A male was seen at Lime Creek N.C. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 10 May (*IBL* 63:79). 93-18: A male was photographed at L. Manawa on 11 May (P-0397, *IBL* 63:79).

**Lazuli Bunting:** 93-28: A male was photographed by \*Mary Ellis near Lake City in Calhoun Co. on 7 Jul (P-0415, *IBL* 64:50).

**Black-throated Sparrow:** 93-19: Iowa's first was at Waterloo from 16 Mar to 9 Apr (P-0385, *IBL* 63:79).

## 1993 RECORDS NOT ACCEPTED

**Gyr Falcon:** 93-23: A bird seen briefly at close range on a fence post could have been a Krider's or albinistic Red-tailed Hawk (*IBL* 64:12).

**Laughing Gull:** 93-11: This record of an apparent alternate plumaged adult was reviewed three times, the last after receiving additional information and a request from the documentor (*IBL* 63:75). This record raised the classic problem of separating first-alternate Franklin's Gull from adult alternate Laughing Gull. A recent article (Lehman 1994) extended the differential to include second-alternate Franklin's Gull. Franklin's must be separated from Laughing based on a number of morphologic features. The outer wing pattern alone may not separate these two species.

**Iceland Gull:** Reports from Rathbun Res. on 2 Jan (93-01, *IBL* 63:49), Lock and Dam 14 on 31 Jan (93-03, *IBL* 63:49), Davenport on 7 Feb (93-05, *IBL* 63:49), and at L. Macbride on 16 Apr (93-12, *IBL* 63:75) were Not Accepted on split votes. These records may well have been correct, but reviewers considered the details to be incomplete and inconclusive. Another Not Accepted record from the Des Moines R. on 17 Apr (93-13, *IBL* 63:75) was reported as Thayer's-Iceland type.

## OLD RECORDS REVIEWED FOR FIRST TIME

The old records not previously reviewed were almost all those that have been previously reported (Dinsmore et al. 1984) but not evaluated by the Records Committee. In 1981, the committee reviewed records of Accidental species that had no specimen or photograph. The 1993 review involved those Accidental species that did have a specimen or photograph. One specimen reported as Arctic Loon (now Pacific Loon) turned out to be a Red-throated Loon taken in Illinois. A few records that had been missed in previous reviews were also included. The species reviewed (number Accepted/total) were Pacific Loon (2/11), Trumpeter Swan (3/21), King Eider (1/1), Barrow's Goldeneye (0/1), Black Vulture (2/3), American Swallow-tailed Kite (11/27), Ferruginous Hawk (2/42), Purple Gallinule (4/12), Eskimo Curlew (2/9), Long-billed Curlew (8/23), Red Knot (2/7), Ruff (1/1), Jaeger species (3/3), Parasitic Jaeger (2/4), Long-tailed Jaeger (1/1), Sabine's Gull (2/4), Gray Jay (3/4), Clark's Nutcracker (5/8), Common Raven (3/16), Rock Wren (0/6), Western Bluebird (0/1), Mountain Bluebird (1/4), Curve-billed Thrasher (1/1), Chestnut-collared Longspur (1/1), and Rosy Finch (2/2). Many of the Not Accepted records were old literature citations without descriptive details. The only change in the state list resulting from this review of old records was to move Pacific Loon from A-S (specimen) to A-D (sight record). The Accepted records will be detailed in a future publication (Kent and Dinsmore, in preparation).

## OLD RECORDS RECONSIDERED -- CHANGED TO ACCEPTED

Unless otherwise stated, references for the records that follow can be found in Dinsmore et al. (1984) or previous reports of the Records Committee.

**Magnificent Frigatebird:** 81-AB: Aug 1903, s. of Burlington, Des Moines Co. (P-0224); 88-13: 3 Oct 1988, Red Rock Res., Marion Co. [previously Accepted as Frigatebird sp.].

**Snowy Egret:** 81-LO: 24 Jul 1934, Elk L., Clay Co. (Iowa State Univ. #25) [previously Not Accepted as Little Blue Heron].

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck:** 82-AC: 8 May 1977, Zirbel Sl., Cerro Gordo Co. (P-0169) [NA to A-P]. 87-13: 29 May 1987, NW Boone Co. (P-0223) [A-E to A-P]. 88-14: Ingham L., Emmet Co. (A-E to A-D).

**Barrow's Goldeneye:** 87-08: 14 Mar 1987, De Soto N.W.R., Harrison Co.

**Mississippi Kite:** 81-MK: prior to 1907, Fort Dodge, Webster Co.; 80-04: 14 May 1980, Waubesa S.P., Fremont Co.

**Herring Gull:** 89-61: 11 Nov 1989, Red Rock Res., Marion Co. [previously Not Accepted as Lesser Black-backed Gull].

**Ivory Gull:** 81-AU: 20 Dec 1975, Rathbun Res., Appanoose Co.

**Groove-billed Ani:** 81-NG: 22 Oct 1966, Cedar Rapids, Linn Co. [previously Accepted as Ani sp.].  
**Sage Thrasher:** 81-BS: 20 Dec 1952 to 10 Jan 1953, Des Moines, Polk Co.  
**Curve-billed Thrasher:** 81-CG: 25 Jun 1975, Spirit Lake, Dickinson Co.  
**Prairie Warbler:** 81-DV: 1 Jul 1978, Yellow River Forest, Allamakee Co.  
**Summer Tanager:** 90-41: 2 Dec 1990, Pleasant Valley, Scott Co. [previously Not Accepted as Hepatic Tanager].  
**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 81-09: 23 May 1981, Ledges S.P., Boone Co.  
**Smith's Longspur:** 83-17: 27 Apr 1983, near Hills, Johnson Co.; 83-35, 17 Dec 1983, Pocahontas, Pocahontas Co. (P-0136).

## OLD RECORDS RECONSIDERED -- STATUS CHANGED

**Boreal Chickadee:** 81-GN: 17 Nov 1976 to 7 Mar 1977, Des Moines, Polk Co. (P-0006) [changed from A-D to A-P].  
**House Finch:** 85-10: 28 Mar 1985, Iowa City, Johnson Co. (P-0183) [changed from A-D to A-P].

## OLD RECORDS RECONSIDERED -- CHANGED TO NOT ACCEPTED

**Red-throated Loon:** 81-KY: 28 Apr 1873, near Ottumwa, Wapello Co. The undescribed specimen is no longer extant, and the information about it, obtained years later, may have been hearsay.  
**Pacific Loon:** 86-07: 1 Nov 1986, Saylorville Res., Polk Co. An outside reviewer raised doubts, and there were differences in the documentation and published accounts.  
**Black-shouldered Kite:** 89-26: 18 Sep 1989, Otter Creek M., Tama Co. The distant viewing conditions and non-acceptance of a similar record of this species were considered by the committee.  
**Three-toed Woodpecker:** 81-CF: 28 to 31 May 1975, Bettendorf, Scott Co. There is no description of the specimen, which was later destroyed in a freezer accident. The nearest record for this species is in central Minnesota, and the date is very unusual. A recent article (Kaufman 1993) noted that juvenile Hairy Woodpeckers with yellow crowns have been mistaken for Three-toed Woodpeckers, even in museum collections.  
**Sprague's Pipit:** 81-CU: 4 May 1958, Brenton Sl., Polk Co. This record was reviewed three times, the last time at the 1994 meeting. Although quite possibly a Sprague's Pipit, the description of the bird and its behavior is not complete and has some features that fit better with American Pipit or juvenile Horned Lark.

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# FIELD REPORTS--SPRING 1994

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## WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS

March was only the third month in the past two years to average warmer than normal, and precipitation was extremely low...the second driest March in 122 years. Measurable snow was confined to only scattered areas from the 25th to the 29th.

April was marked by frequent and large fluctuations in temperature although the overall average was near normal. It was 13 degrees at several locations on the 5th but only 13 days later it was 95 at Sheldon. Snow fell relatively frequently with six to eight inches in the northwest on the 12th and 28th. Another six inches fell at Dubuque on the 30th, the greatest snowfall on record that late in the season at that location.

May provided some very cold temperatures with subfreezing lows through the 8th at various locations. There was relatively little severe weather (thunderstorms or tornadoes). In contrast to recent seasons, this was overall the sixth driest spring in 122 years.



Table 1. Temperature and Precipitation in 1994 with Deviation from Normal.

	Temperature, F		Precipitation inches	
	Mean (Deviation)		Mean (Deviation)	
March	38.6	(+2.9)	2.48	(-1.49)
April	49.6	(+0.1)	2.47	(-0.69)
May	61.8	(+0.9)	2.07	(-1.91)
Since January			6.99	(-4.12)

## GENERAL TRENDS

The waterfowl migration was about normal for dates of arrival, but total numbers appeared to be less. There were above average numbers for all the grebes except Horned. Good shorebird habitat existed throughout most of the state, and shorebird variety and numbers were excellent. Shorebird species present in increased numbers included Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, and both godwits. A prolonged strong southerly airflow was associated with a large number of very early passerine arrivals in April. Thereafter, northerly and easterly winds discouraged passerines, and it was not until the second week of May that many more arrived. All-in-all, the warbler migration was lackluster, with no waves or fallouts. Reports of Carolina Wren were down drastically, which is probably a reflection of the severe winter. Other passerine species which showed a decline were Yellow-breasted Chat, which was limited to one sighting, and both cuckoos. On the other hand, American Pipits were widely reported, and Great-tailed Grackles continued to expand their population in the western third of the state.

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Potential first state records are Fish Crow and Swainson's Warbler. Accidental species reported included Clark's Grebe, Mississippi Kite, Greater Prairie-Chicken, Purple Gallinule, Mountain Bluebird, Sprague's Pipit, Western Tanager, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Casual species included Red-throated Loon, White-faced Ibis, Whimbrel, Red Knot, Lark Bunting, and Eurasian Tree Sparrow. Some of the rare birds reported were Red-necked Grebe, all three scoter species, Snowy Egret, Yellow Rail, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Varied Thrush, and Prairie Warbler.

### SPECIES DATA (\* = documented)

**Red-throated Loon:** A bird in basic plumage was at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 7-9 May (\*JLW, CJF, RGo, EuA/EIA)[record latest].

**Common Loon:** The first was on 31 Mar at Pleasant Creek L. (JLF). On 9 Apr, 5 or 6 were at L. Comelia (MPR). The last was 1 in Polk Co. on 20 May (SJD).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** The first were 3 on 19 Mar at Dunbar Sl. (MPR). The peak was on 6 Apr, with 52 at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP) and 50 in Johnson Co. (THK).

**Horned Grebe:** There were fewer reports than normal, with singles at Rathbun L. on 20 Mar (JSi), Big Creek L. on 2 Apr (DT), Morse L. in Wright Co. on 9 Apr (MPR), and Blue L. on 14 Apr (PE).

**Red-necked Grebe:** A bird in alternate plumage was in Johnson Co. on 6 Apr (JLF-details). A pair was at Trumbull L. on 14 Apr (\*MMB). There were 1 or 2 at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 7-12 May (\*RGo, CJF, JLW). On 20-27 May, 2 were at Grovers L. in Dickinson Co. (\*MMB, LAS, DH)[record latest].

**Eared Grebe:** All reports were from the western half of the state, with the first on 14 Apr at Blue L. (PE). Others were 4 at L. Manawa on 15 Apr (THK), 7 at Snyder Bend on 16 Apr (BFH), 1-3 at Terra Pond in Johnston from 17 Apr to 4 May (DT), 2 at Forney L. on 21 Apr (JLF), 2-4 at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 7-12 May (CJF, JLW, RGo), 1 at Blackhawk L. on 10 May (DH), and 1 at Big Wall L. on 18 May (MPR). The last was on 29 May at Grovers L. (SJD).

**Western Grebe:** More than usual were reported, with the first on 14 Apr at Blue L. (PE). Others were 1 or 2 at Trumbull L. on 29 April to 29 May (LAS, MMB, SJD), 2 at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 7-12 May (CJF, JLW, RGo), 2 at Hickory Grove P. in Story Co. on 15 May (MPR), and 1-3 at Grovers L. on 17-29 May (JJD, LAS, SJD), where a pair was seen courting (SJD).

**Clark's Grebe:** 1 was with a Western Grebe at Trumbull L. on 13 and 19 May (\*MMB).

**American White Pelican:** The first were 20 on 20 Mar at Rathbun L. (JSi). On 26 Mar, 20 were on Pool #13 in Clinton Co. (PCP). The peak was 1,500 at Hendrickson M. and Lakin Sl. on 14 April (THK). There were still 300 at Badger L., Monona Co., on 25 May (SJD).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** An imm. was at Cedar L. on 4-6 Mar (JLF, DLD), probably the same bird that overwintered there. There were 200 at Pool #13 in Clinton Co. on 10 May, with nesting activity on 4 islands in the river (PCP).

**American Bittern:** The only April report was 1 on the 6th at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR). All others were singles: on 2 May at Otter Creek M. (JLF), 4 May at Sweet M. (RLC), 8 May at Anderson L. (PHA/RIA), 14 May at Kettleon Hogsback A. (LAS), 18 May at Spring Run W.A. (JJD), 19 May at Blue L. (PE), and 29 May at Dewey's Pasture (SJD).

**Least Bittern:** A male was at Zirbel Sl. on 13 May (RGo), and 1 or 2 were at Sweet M. on 25, 26 May (JLW, JLF, CE, DRP).

**Great Blue Heron:** On 5 Mar, 1 was in Johnson Co. (DRP). Heronries were noted with 13 birds present at one near Rice L. in Worth Co. on 27 Mar (CJF), w of Union in Hardin Co. on 30 Apr (Joan Buwalda fide BPR), and 5 nests at W. Hottes L. on 17 May (JJD).

**Great Egret:** The first was on 20 Mar in Scott Co. (PCP)[3rd earliest]. Other March sightings were on the 25th at Cherokee (MMB) and on the 30th in Clinton Co. (DCD). A colony with 3 nests was at Blue L. on 19 May (PE).

**Snowy Egret:** 2 were at Riverton A. on 16 Apr (THK)[3rd earliest].

**Little Blue Heron:** An adult was near Buffalo in Scott Co. on 14 May (Richard Sayles fide PCP).

**Cattle Egret:** The first were singles on 16 Apr at Otter Creek M. (EuA/EIA, DT) and at Hawarden (JV). The most were 10 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 31 May (MCK). There were 11 other reports of 1 to 4 birds from throughout the state.

**Green-backed Heron:** The first was 1 on 17 Apr in Iowa City (JES).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** 13 of 14 reports were from April, with the first on the 9th at the Coralville Res. (DLD) and Polk City W.A. (JC). The greatest number was 24 at Lakin Sl. on the 15th (JSi). On 29 May, 10, including birds carrying nesting material, were at Grovers L. (SJD).



**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** Single birds were reported from Forney L. on 20 Apr (PHA/RIA-photo), Cone M. on 1-13 May (THK, JLF, PCP, DRP), Muscatine Co. on 14 May (PCP), and Polk City W.A. on 14-15 May (EuA/EIA, DT).

**White-faced Ibis:** The only report was 1 at Blue L. on 3-7 May (\*PE, EuA/EIA).

**Tundra Swan:** There were 2 at Union Slough. N.W.R. on 24 Mar (refuge personnel fide MCK) and 4 at Cardinal M. on 9 Apr (DeC).

**Trumpeter Swan:** There were 6, including 4 imm., none of which had identifying bands or tags, s of Alden in Hardin Co. on 15 Mar (MPR-details). An imm. was at Blue L. on 10 Apr (\*BFH).

**Mute Swan:** Single adults were near McCausland on 14 Apr (PCP) and at Princeton M. on 12 May (PCP)[3rd latest].

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** Many were reported from across the state, with a peak of 160 on 19 Mar at Trumbull L. (LAS). May sightings were 1 on the 17th at W. Hottes M. (LAS), 2 or 3 on the 19th to 26th at Blue L. (PE, SJD), and 1 on the 30th at Swan L. in Dickinson Co. (SJD).

**Snow Goose:** The first were 20 at Credit L. in Davenport on 5 Mar (DCD). The greatest number was 500,000 at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. on 14 Mar, (Sioux City Journal, fide BFH). On 8 Apr, 4,000 were at Dan Green Sl. (MMB) and 15 were still there on 29 May (SJD).

**Ross' Goose:** The first were 2 at Forney L. on 3 Mar (BKP/LJP). Other reports were 17 at Blue L. on 24 Mar (PE-details), 2 at Rice L. on 27 Mar (JLW-details), 1 at Dan Green Sl. on 1 Apr (MMB-details), 1-4 at Secret L. in Fremont Co. on 16-21 Apr (THK, JLF, BKP/LJP), and 1 at Teig's M. in Story Co. on 18-20 May (MPR-details, JLF, JES).

**Canada Goose:** There were 75 at Cone M. on 5 May (THK).

**Wood Duck:** The first were on 8 Mar, with 2 at Eagle Point P. in Clinton (PCP) and 3 on the Maple R. in Ida Co. (PE).

**Green-winged Teal:** The first was on 9 Mar at Blue L. (PE). Reports from late May were 5 at W. Hottes M. on the 22nd (LAS), 1 at Sweet M. on the 24th (JLF), and 2 at Cardinal M. on the 27th (DeC).

**American Black Duck:** The only reports from the western part of the state were 1 at W. Hottes M. on 17 May (LAS) and a male at Jemerson Sl. on 27 May (SJD).

**Cinnamon Teal:** A male was at Otter Creek M. on 8-10 Apr (JLF, AMJ, MPR). A pair was at Sandbar Sl. in Dickinson Co. on 11-21 Apr (ET-photo, LAS, CJF), and a male was at Forney L. on 21 Apr (JLF).

**Northern Shoveler:** The first were 2 on 6 Mar at Cone M. (DRP). A peak of 120 occurred at Cardinal M. on 31 Mar (DeC), and 1 was still at Pool Sl. in Allamakee Co. on 14 May (FL).

**Gadwall:** The first were on 5 Mar, with 1 at Iowa City (DRP), and 2 at Cherokee (JSi).

**American Wigeon:** A male was still at Meinking M. in Dickinson Co. on 27 May (SJD).

**Canvasback:** A peak of 750 on Pool #19 at Montrose occurred on 12 Mar (RLC). One lingered at Blue L. on 26 May (PE, SJD).

**Redhead:** The first were 59 on 3 Mar at Blue L. (PE). The peak was 103 at L. Manawa on 11 Mar (BKP/LJP).

**Ring-necked Duck:** The first were 21 on 5 Mar at Pacific Junction in Mills Co. (BKP/LJP). The peak was 245 at the IPL Ponds on 13 Mar (BKP/LJP). There were 126 at Rathbun L. on 6 Mar. (RLC) and 120 at Cardinal M. on 31 Mar (DeC).

**Greater Scaup:** Details were provided for 10 at Pool #13, Clinton Co., on 8 Mar (PCP), 2 males at Swan L., Johnson Co., on 1 Apr (DRP), 2 at Cone M. on 5 Apr (PCP), 1 at Lakin Sl. on 14 Apr (THK), and 2 at Otter Creek M. on 17 Apr (DRP).

**Lesser Scaup:** The most were 590 at Rathbun L. on 23 Mar (RLC). There were still 3 at Terra L. in Johnston on 31 May (DT).

**Black Scoter:** A male in alternate plumage was at Big Creek L. on 9-13 Apr (MPR-details, DT, EuA/EIA, AMJ).

**Surf Scoter:** Single females were below the Red Rock Dam on 15 Apr (JLF) and at Pleasant Creek L. on 9-15 May (\*DRP, CE-details, JLF).

**White-winged Scoter:** The only report was 1 at a farm pond in Winnebago Co. on 22 May (MCK)[2nd latest].

**Common Goldeneye:** The last was 1 on 9 Apr at Big Wall L. (MPR).

**Bufflehead:** A female appeared at Blue L. on 3 Mar (PE), and the peak was 24 at Rathbun L. on 23 Mar (RLC). A female was still at Swan L. in Dickinson Co. on 30 May (SJD)[record latest].

**Hooded Merganser:** The first were 5 on 12 Mar at Cone M. (CE). At Big Sand Mound Preserve there were 50, including 3 broods of large young, on 14 May (PCP) and 2 adults and 11 downy young were at Brenton Sl. in Polk Co. on 14 May (JSi).

**Common Merganser:** On 18 Mar, 100 were at Rock Valley (JV).

**Red-breasted Merganser:** The greatest number was 130 at L. Cornelia on 9 Apr (MPr). May reports included 1 in Van Buren Co. on the 12th (JLF), 1 in Louisa Co. on the 14th (PCP), 1 to 2 at Pleasant Creek L. on the 15th-19th (JLF), and a female at W. Okoboji L. on the 27th (SJD).

**Ruddy Duck:** On 12 Mar, 30 were on Pool #19 in Lee Co. (RLC).

**Turkey Vulture:** The first were 5 in Lee Co. on 12 Mar (RLC).

**Osprey:** On 10 Apr, singles were at Otter Creek M. (MPr) and near Big Creek S.P. (AMJ). One was still at Brown's L. on 25 May (SJD) and another at Sweet M. on 26 May (DRP, JLF).

**Mississippi Kite:** Single birds were at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City on 17 Apr (\*JLF), Ledges S.P. on 14 May (\*DT), and Peterson Pits in Story Co. on 22 May (\*MPr, \*DRP).

**Bald Eagle:** On 6 Mar, 104 were at the Runnells W.A. (JSi) and 40 were at Rathbun L. (RLC). May sightings were 3 at Pool Sl. in Allamakee Co. on the 14th (FL) and 2 young in a nest at Sny Magill North Cedar Creeks in Clayton Co. on 29 May (EuA/EIA).

**Northern Harrier:** A female was still at the Kettleson Hogsback A. on 22 May (LAS), and a pair was calling and may have been nesting in northern Clay Co. on 29 May (SJD).

**Cooper's Hawk:** There were 7 reports, with the last at Ledges S.P. on 11 May (MPr).

**Northern Goshawk:** An adult that wintered at Kent P. in Johnson Co. was still there on 4 Mar (JLF) and an imm. was at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. on 8 Mar (PE). The only other was 1 at Waubonsie S.P. on 23 Mar (BKP/LJP-details).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** Single imm. birds were n of Iowa City on 1-5 Mar (JES, JLF, CE, DRP) and in Kossuth Co. on 24 May (MCK). Adults were in Johnson Co. on 4 Mar (CE), at Yellow River F. on 2 Apr (DRP), and in western Lyon Co. on 28 May (SJD). An adult and 2 young in the nest were at Sny Magill North Cedar Creeks in Clayton Co. on 29 May (EuA/EIA).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** The first was 1 on 16 Apr at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr). Late May birds, which may be nesters, were 1 at Yellow River F. on 14 May (FL), and 2 or 3 at Ledges S.P. on 21-22 May (MPr, DRP, RLC, DT).

**Swainson's Hawk:** There were 5 n of Mason City on 23 Mar (JLW-details, CJF)[3rd earliest]. The peak was 150 at a roost at Waubonsie S.P. on 16 Apr (BKP/LJP). Seven other reports described 1 or 2 birds, all in the western part of the state, except 1 in Madison Co. on 16 Apr (EuA/EIA). On 1 May, a pair returned to a nest site in Osceola Co. for the 17th straight year (DBi).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** A Harlan's race was in Johnson Co. on 5 Mar (DRP), and a Krider's race was noted in Palo Alto Co. on 12 Mar (LAS). A nest with 3 young was observed s of Fairfield on 13-25 May (DCP).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** The last was on 29 Apr in Kossuth Co. (MCK).

**Golden Eagle:** 1 was near Washta in Cherokee Co. on 11 Mar (MMB) and an imm. was at Waubonsie S.P. on 23 Mar (BKP/LJP-details).

**Merlin:** All 7 sightings were of single birds: in Cherokee Co. on 5 Mar (ET-photo), at Davenport on 5 Apr (PCP), in Cerro Gordo Co. on 6 Apr (CJF-details), in Marshall Co. on 17 Apr (MPr-details), in Plymouth Co. on 24 Apr (BFH), in Appanoose Co. on 7 May (RLC-details), and in Polk Co. on 11 May (DT)[ties 3rd latest].

**Peregrine Falcon:** Single birds were described from 5 wetland areas across the state: Otter Creek M. on 10 April (MPr-details), Union Slough N.W.R. on 29 Apr (MCK), Blue L. on 30 Apr and 26 May (PE), Cone M. on 11 May (JLF), and Blackhawk L. on 15 May (DS). A pair was observed mating on 8 May at the same downtown Des Moines location where they nested last year (JSi). Three young hatched at Cedar Rapids on 19 May (Laura Jackson fide JLF).

**Gray Partridge:** Disturbing are descriptions "now hard to find" in Sioux Co. (JV), and "gone" from central Iowa (DT).

**Ruffed Grouse:** Away from their normal range, 2 drumming birds were at the Lucas Unit of Stephens S.F. on 7 May (JSi).

**Greater Prairie-Chicken:** The bird that wintered at Cherokee was still present on 5 Mar (ET-photo) and was last seen south of there on 5 Apr (DBi).

**Wild Turkey:** They continue to spread along the major rivers in northwest Iowa (JV). Birds were accidentally flushed from nests at the Coralville Res. on 26 Apr (DRP) and in Warren Co. on 15 May (JSi).

**Northern Bobwhite:** In Sioux Co., their "total absence is alarming" (JV).

**Yellow Rail:** A bird was flushed at Otter Creek M. on 6 May (JLF-details).

**King Rail:** 1 was found dead at the Alfred Hellman farmhouse near Bancroft on 12 May (MCK).

**Virginia Rail:** 2 were at Otter Creek M. on 2 May (JLF). All other reports were: 1 at Snake Creek M. on 10-11 May (DT), 1 at Teig's M. on 20 May (JLF), 3 at Fish Farm Mounds Pond in Allamakee Co. on 14 May (FL), and 2 at a marsh n of Silver L. in Worth Co. on 29 May (JLF).

**Sora:** The first was 1 on 17 Apr in Boone Co. (MPr).

**Purple Gallinule:** 1 at Sweet M. on 24-30 May was seen by many (\*JLF, \*CE, \*DRP, \*MPr).

**Common Moorhen:** A group of 6 was at Anderson L. on 7 May (HZ). Other reports were 1 or 2 at Teig's M. on 8-20 May (PHA/RIA, MPr, JLF, JES), and singles at Blue L. on 14 May (PE), at Pleasant Creek L. on 16 May (DLD), and at Blue L. on 25 May (SJD).

**American Coot:** The first were 2 at Bays Branch on 5 Mar (MPr).

**Sandhill Crane:** This species has made a strong comeback in the state. At Otter Creek M., where nesting has been successful the past 2 years, 1-7 were present from 31 Mar to 22 May (Mike Stegmann fide JLF, JLF, MPr, AMJ, DRP, CE, JES). There were 3 at Green Island W.A. on 13 Mar (Sylvia Faust fide PCP). An adult was at Goose L. and 2 imm. at the Pekosh A. in Clinton Co. on 14 May (KMc fide PCP). A bird was displaying at Princeton M. on 17 May (PCP). In April, 2 were at the New Albin W.A. and 2 were at Sweet M. (Laura Jackson fide JLF). A corrected date for a bird previously reported 27 Apr 1993 at Otter Creek M. (Jeffrey Dankert fide DLD) is 27 Mar 1993.

**Black-bellied Plover:** The first was 1 on 10 May at the Green Island W.A. (PCP) and the peak was 32 at the Saylorville Res. on 19 May (SJD). One was still at Blue L. on 26 May (SJD).

**Lesser Golden-Plover:** The first were 3 in basic plumage at Cone M. on 31 Mar (JLF). At Rush L. in Palo Alto Co., there were 216 on 19 May, 118 on 27 May (MMB), and 3 on 29 May (SJD).

**Semipalmated Plover:** The first were 2 on 14 Apr at Roberts Creek L. in Marion Co. (JLF). The most were 80 at Elk Creek M. on 21 May (EuA/EIA) and the last were 2 on 25 May at Cardinal M. (DeC).

**Piping Plover:** There were 3-6 at the IPL Ponds on 21-22 Apr (BKP/LJP, JLF), with 2 there on 5 May (EuA/EIA), and 3 on 29 May (BKP/LJP). The only other reports were of singles at the Saylorville Res. on 10 May (DT) and at Blue L. on 7-12 May (PE, EuA/EIA).

**American Avocet:** The first was 1 on 14 Apr at Roberts Creek L. (JLF). The peak was 15 at Forney L. on 15 April (THK) and at the Riverton A. on 16 Apr (THK). Other reports were of 1-4 birds in Pottawattamie, Marion, Fremont, and Cherokee counties.

**Greater Yellowlegs:** The only March report was of 6 at Cone M. on the 26th (JES). A single was still at Blue L. on 25 May (SJD-details).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** The first was at Trumbull L. on 18 Mar (MMB). The peak was 225 at Cone M. on 5 May (THK).

**Solitary Sandpiper:** The last 1 was on 19 May in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).

**Willet:** The first 2 were at Cone M. on 27 Mar (\*JES)[record earliest]. The greatest count was 20 at the Coralville Res. on 24 Apr (DRP). Nine other reports, all in April, described 1-5 birds.

**Spotted Sandpiper:** The first was 1 on 19 Apr in Winneshiek Co. (DeC).

**Upland Sandpiper:** 1 was in Johnson Co. on 24 Apr (THK). Up to 3 were near Homestead in Iowa Co. on 1-15 May (JLF). Pairs were in Sioux Co. on 30 Apr (JV) and Lucas Co. on 18 May (JLW).

**Whimbrel:** 1 appeared on 27 May at the Coralville Res. (\*CE, \*JLF, \*DLD, \*JES)[record latest].

**Hudsonian Godwit:** The first were 2 on 15 Apr at Blue L. (THK). The peak was 32 at W. Hottes L. on 11 May (LAS). Of the 13 other reports, 2 were from eastern Iowa: 1 at LeClaire on 12 May was only a second Scott Co. record (PCP), and 4 were at the Coralville Res. on 26 May (CE).

**Marbled Godwit:** There were many more reports, with more individuals, than normal. The first were 7 on 16 Apr at Snyder Bend (BFH). There were 1 or 2 at 5 locations: Dickinson Co. on 19 Apr (ET), Trumbull L. on 29 Apr (MMB-details), Green Island W.A. on 10 May (PCP), Blue L. on 12 May (PE-details), and near Dunbar Sl. on 15 May (MPr-details). Reports of large flocks were: 18 in Fremont Co. on 21 Apr (JLF-details) and 20 at Lakin Sl on 15 May (PHA/RIA). Another flock of 20 was late on 27 May at Big Creek S.P. (EuA/EIA)[ties 2nd latest]. A bird on 30 May at Cunningham Sl. in Emmet Co. was the last (SJD-details) [record latest].

**Ruddy Turnstone:** All reports were from late May. Large groups were 24 at the Coralville Res. on 17 May (JLF), 30 at Big Creek S.P. on 27 May (EuA/EIA), and 11 at Blue L. on 26 May (SJD). Others were 1-6: in Dickinson Co. on 17 and 19 May (ET), at Big Creek S.P. on 17 May (HZ), in Pocahontas Co. on 18 May (JJD), and at the Coralville Res. on 26 May (CE).

**Red Knot:** A bird primarily in basic plumage was at Blue L. on 12 May (\*PE).

**Sanderling:** Eight reports noted 1-3 birds from 10-27 May.

**Western Sandpiper:** 2 were at Cone M. on 10 and 14 May (PCP-details).

**Least Sandpiper:** The first was on 17 Apr at Otter Creek M. (DRP). There were 65 at the Polk City W.A. on 10 May (DT).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** The first were 2 on 29 Apr at Blue L. (PE). The peak was 125 at Patterson W.A. in Kossuth Co. on 22 May (MCK).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** The first were 3 at Blue L. on 2 Apr (PE). The peak and last were 10 on 14 May at Cone M. (PCP).

**Dunlin:** The first was 1 at the Coralville Res. on 24 Apr (DRP). The most were 40 at the Coralville Res. on 18 May (CE). The last were 12 in Kossuth Co. on 27 May (MCK).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** The most were 16 near Dunbar Sl. on 15 May (MPr).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 1 was at Blue L. on 29 Apr. (PE-details)[3rd earliest] and 8 were there on 20 May (PE-details).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Details were provided for birds seen from 1-15 May: groups of 8-11 at Cone M. (DRP, PCP), 9 at Hickory Grove P. (HZ), 9 at Polk City W.A. (DT), 14 at Blue L. (PE), 90 at Cone M. (PCP), and 55 near Dunbar Sl. (MPR).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** The first were 6 at the Riverton A. on 16 Apr (THK). On 14 May, the last 4 were at Cone M. (PCP-details)[ties 2nd latest].

**Common Snipe:** High counts of 200 and 400 were reported from Cone M. on 5 Apr (PCP, CE).

**American Woodcock:** First was 1 on 12 Mar at Snyder Bend (BFH-details). An adult and 3 young were at Sweet M. on 28 May (MPR).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** Single birds were first on 15 Apr at Blue L. (THK) and Roberts Creek L. (JLF) [ties 3rd earliest]. From 1 to 4 birds were noted from 10 other locations, with 2 observed copulating on 27 May at the Kettleton W.P.A. in Dickinson Co. (SJD).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** A female in alternate plumage was at Red Rock Res. on 15 May (EuA/EIA).

**Franklin's Gull:** The first was 1 on 14 Mar in Muscatine Co. (DCD). They were said to be "numerous" in northwestern Iowa in late May, and 300 remained at Kettleton W.P.A. on the 29th (SJD).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** The first was 1 on 31 Mar at L. Macbride (DRP). A flock of 50 was in Winneshiek Co. on 19 Apr (DeC). An imm. was still at the Saylorville Res. on 20 May (SJD).

**Ring-billed Gull:** The first nesting of this species in the state was noted 18 May, when a colony with 17 nests was observed near Spirit Lake in Dickinson Co. (Tim Waltz fide JJD, JJD).

**Herring Gull:** There were 3 imm. (2nd-3rd-summer) at Sandbar Sl. in Dickinson Co. on 27 May (SJD) and a 2nd-summer bird was at Kettleton W.P.A. on 29 May (SJD).

**Glaucous Gull:** A first-year bird was at Roberts Creek L. on 10 Mar (JLF).

**Caspian Tern:** Arriving first were 4 on 19 Apr at Lock & Dam #16 at Muscatine (PCP)[ties earliest]. The peak was 36 at Big Creek S.P. on 17 May (HZ), and 2 were still at the IPL Ponds on 29 May (BKP/LJP).

**Common Tern:** A group of 8 was at Blue L. on 24 Apr (PE-details). Other reports were: 3 at Green Island W.A. on 10 May (PCP-details), 6 at Big Creek S.P. on 19 May (SJD-details), 11 at the Saylorville Res. on 20 May (SJD-details), and 1 at Anderson L. on 22 May (PCP).

**Forster's Tern:** The first were on 14 Apr, with 2 at Cardinal M. (DeC) and 3 at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK).

**Least Tern:** 1 was at Roberts Creek L. on 14 May (AMJ). Along the Big Sioux R. in Plymouth Co. there was 1 on 24 May (DBi) and 2 on 26 May (SJD). At the IPL Ponds, there were 2 or 3 on 22-28 May (BKP/LJP).

**Black Tern:** The first was on 7 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC). The most were 485 at Blue L. on 25 May (SJD).

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** The first was a single on 14 May at Ledges S.P. (DT).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** There were only 2 reports of single birds.

**Snowy Owl:** 1 was in Kossuth Co. on 4 Mar (Roger Batt, Tom Parsons fide MCK).

**Long-eared Owl:** Singles were at the Coralville Res. on 4 Mar (JLF) and Snyder Bend on 12 Mar (BFH).

**Short-eared Owl:** There was 1 in Clayton Co. on 2 Apr (DRP) and 4 were at Walnut Creek N.W.R. on 30 May (Rollin Sachs fide JJD).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** On 4 Mar, 1 was still at the Coralville Res. (JLF).

**Common Nighthawk:** The peak was 50 at Credit I. in Davenport on 14 May (DCD).

**Chuck-will's-widow:** A bird was heard on 10 and 14 May w of Montpelier in Muscatine Co. (PCP).

**Whip-poor-will:** The 3 in Cherokee Co. on 24 May (MMB) and 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 18 May (CJF) were thought to be unusual.

**Chimney Swift:** The first was on 19 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ).

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** A male n of Iowa City on 24 and 25 Apr was the first (JLF)(record earliest).

**Northern Flicker:** A red-shafted form was in Madison Co. on 26 Mar (PHA/RIA).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** There were 7 reports of 1-3 birds from Scott, Allamakee, Marshall, Boone, Johnson, Polk, and Delaware counties. The only reports from western Iowa were in Dickinson Co. (\*RRB) and a pair mating on 16 Apr in Kossuth Co. (Blair Redenius fide MCK).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The first was at Dudgeon L. in Benton Co. on 15 May (CE, JLF).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** The first was on 14 May in Louisa Co. (PCP). There were 5 other reports of single birds from Johnson, Wright, Sioux, and Woodbury counties.

**Acadian Flycatcher:** The first was on 5 May at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JLF). Single birds were at 4 different locations in Johnson Co. on 21-30 May (CE), 4 were near Stone City in Jones Co. on 23 May (CE), and 2 were in Appanoose Co. on 30 May (RLC).

**Alder Flycatcher:** First was 1 at Sweet M. on 19 May (JLF). Nine other reports noted 1-3 birds from 21-30 May.

**Willow Flycatcher:** The first were 5 on 19 May at Sweet M. (JLF).

**Least Flycatcher:** The first was at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 5 May (JLF).

**Eastern Phoebe:** The first was on 23 Mar in Wright Co. (MPr).

**Great Crested Flycatcher:** A bird was at the Coralville Res. on 24 Apr (DRP)[3rd earliest]. Another April sighting was in Cerro Gordo Co. on the 27th (CJF).

**Western Kingbird:** The first were 2 in Monona Co. on 5 May (PE). Reports away from western Iowa were 1 on 11 May at Big Creek S.P. (EuA/EIA, DT), and 2-4 on the state capitol grounds in Des Moines (lobbying for a range extension?) on 22-30 May (RLC, PHA/RIA, CE).

**Eastern Kingbird:** April reports were of single birds on the 24th in Lee Co. (RIC, THK) and on the 25th at the Coralville Res. (DLD).

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 1 was near L. Cornelia on 18 May (MPr-details).

**Horned Lark:** An adult was feeding fledged young in Fremont Co. on 16 Apr. (THK).

**Purple Martin:** The first in Sioux Co. were on 17 Apr (JV).

**Tree Swallow:** The first were 2 on 20 Mar at Rathbun L. (JSi). The peak was 200 in Johnson Co. on 6 Apr (CE).

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** The first were 2 n of Iowa City on 5 Apr (JES, JLF)[2nd earliest].

**Bank Swallow:** A bird in Polk Co. on 11 Apr was the first (AMJ)[ties earliest].

**Cliff Swallow:** The most were 300 at Pleasant Creek L. on 9 May (DLD).

**Barn Swallow:** The first was at Cone M. on 9 Apr (AMJ).

**Fish Crow:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Tufted Titmouse:** 24 were in Appanoose Co. on 24 Apr (RLC).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** The invasion of last year continued into the spring with 14 reports of 1-3 birds, many at feeders.

**Brown Creeper:** The last were 2 on 9 May at the Coralville Res. (CE).

**Carolina Wren:** After substantial increases in sightings the past several years, there were only 6 reports during the period, all from the southern half of the state: 2 birds in Jefferson Co. (DCP), 5 in Lee Co. (THK, RIC), 1 in Jasper Co. (GJB), 1 in Johnson Co. (DRP), 1 in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP), and 1 in Polk Co. (DT). It appears the severe winter may have taken its toll on this species.

**Bewick's Wren:** None were reported from the usual locations in Lee and Van Buren counties.

**House Wren:** The first was 1 at Fairfield on 17 Apr (DCP).

**Winter Wren:** The last was on 10 May at Bulger's Hollow, Clinton Co. (PCP).

**Sedge Wren:** First were 2 on 4 May in Bremer Co. (RLC).

**Marsh Wren:** A single bird was in Boone Co. on 17 Apr (MPr)[ties earliest].

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** The first was on 20 Mar in Ida Co. (PE).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The last was 1 at Fairfield on 15 May (DCP).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** First was 1 on 20 Apr in Sac Co. (DS-details). A pair was nest building on 24 Apr in Lee Co. (RIC). 1 was in Cherokee Co. on 24 May (MMB).

**Mountain Bluebird:** 1 or 2 males were with Eastern Bluebirds in Greene Co. on 6-13 Mar. (\*RT, \*ET, \*JLF, \*MPr).

**Veery:** They first arrived on 5 May in Grundy Co. (MPr).

**Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 1 was at Hickory Hill P. on 25 Apr (\*THK)[2nd earliest]. Other April records were on the 27th in Louisa Co. (THK, JLF), and on the 29th in Dickinson Co. (JSi).

**Swainson's Thrush:** 2 were at Pine Lake S.P. on 2 May (BPr). The peak was on 12 May with 29 at Waterworks P. in Des Moines (RIC) and 28 in Kossuth Co. (MCK). The last was on 24 May at Hickory Hill P. (DRP).

**Hermit Thrush:** The first were 2 on 2 Apr in Warren Co. (AMJ).

**Wood Thrush:** Unusual in northwestern Iowa, late May birds were in Kossuth Co. (MCK) and Lyon and Clay counties (SJD).

**American Robin:** A partial albino was at Steamboat Rock on 19 Apr (MPr-details).

**Varied Thrush:** The wintering male was seen almost daily at the Scheib yard and feeder n of Iowa City until 13 Apr (\*JES, JLF, THK).

**Northern Mockingbird:** Singles were noted in Appanoose Co. on 7 May (RLC) and Polk Co. on 8 May (JSi).

**Brown Thrasher:** The first was on 9 Apr at Cone M. (PHA/RIA, JLF).

**American Pipit:** This species was more widely seen than usual, with 21 reports from throughout the state. The first and most were 50 on 31 Mar at Cone M. (JLF). There were also 50 at the Kettleson Hogsback A. on 29 Apr (LAS).

**Sprague's Pipit:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Northern Shrike:** Single birds were reported on 5 Mar in Boone Co. (MPR-details) and on 6 Mar in Dickinson Co. (ET), Clay Co. (LAS), and Appanoose counties (RLC).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** The first was on 5 Mar in Boone Co. (MPR).

**White-eyed Vireo:** The first was on 23 Apr at Shimek S.F. (THK, RIC). In northwestern Iowa, single birds were in Calhoun Co. on 3 May (DS-details) and at Ingham L. on 30 May (SJD). Other reports were from Johnson, Louisa, and Warren counties.

**Bell's Vireo:** The first were on 11 May at Cone M. (JLF) and Rock Falls (CJF).

**Solitary Vireo:** 1 was at Hickory Hill P. on 29 Apr (DRP).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** 2 were in Lee Co. on 24 Apr (THK, RIC, CE)[ties 3rd earliest]. The most were 8 in Appanoose Co. on 7 May (RLC).

**Warbling Vireo:** 3 were in Montrose in Lee Co. on 23 Apr (THK, RIC)[ties record earliest]. Another bird was in western Lee Co. on 24 Apr (CE)[3rd earliest].

**Philadelphia Vireo:** The first was 1 on 9 May at Saylorville Res. (DT).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** On 24 Apr, 1 was at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. (CE-details, THK, RIC)[record earliest]. A 1993 report of this species feeding a cowbird on 29 Sep, 1993 (MCK), should be corrected to 29 Aug, 1993.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** The first were 5 at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 24 Apr (RIC, CE, THK). The most were 9 at Yellow River F. on 22 May (FL).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** All reports were from the one-week period of 7-14 May, with the first 2 at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. (CE) and the last 4 at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPR).

**Tennessee Warbler:** The first was on 24 Apr in Polk Co. (JC). The peak was 60 in Appanoose Co. on 14 May (RLC) and the last was 1 on 29 May at Trumbull L. (SJD).

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first were on 19 Apr at Moorehead P. in Ida Co. (PE) and on 21 Apr at Waubonsie S.P. (JLF). The last was 1 on 15 May in Greene Co. (MPR).

**Nashville Warbler:** A bird at Pony Creek P. in Mills Co. on 21 Apr was the first (JLF)[3rd earliest].

**Northern Parula:** April sightings were 3 on the 24th at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. (CE) and 1 on the 28th in Polk Co. (JC). A male was at Preparation Canyon on 13 May (PE).

**Yellow Warbler:** The first were 1 or 2 on 26 Apr at Coralville Res. (CE, DRP).

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** The first was on 8 May in Story Co. (JC).

**Magnolia Warbler:** The first was on 9 May at Grammer Grove W.A. (BPR).

**Cape May Warbler:** There were 3 reports of single birds: on 4 May at Moorehead P. (PE), on 16 May at Hickory Hill P. (Jose Manaligod fide DRP), and on 22 May at Trumbull L. (LAS).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The most were 480 at Sweet M. on 4 May (RLC). The last were 3 on 15 May at Hickory Hill P. (DRP).

**Blackburnian Warbler:** Singles on 11 May were at Ames (HZ) and in Polk Co. (JC). The last was on 22 May at the Coralville Res. (CE).

**Yellow-throated Warbler:** 1 was at Des Moines on 26 Apr (RIC). The 3 birds at the Coralville Res. on 3 May were only a second Johnson Co. record (THK). A nest was found by Jim Sandrock at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 5 May, and it was still active on 23 May (JLF). There were 1 or 2 at Ledges S.P. on 11-21 May (MPR, JC, DRP, JES).

**Pine Warbler:** There were 2 reports: One bird arrived on 24 Apr at the Coralville Res. (DRP)[2nd earliest], and 1 was at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 5 May (JLF).

**Prairie Warbler:** A male was singing at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 5-8 May (JLF, CE, RIC).

**Palm Warbler:** The first was on 22 Apr at Cardinal M. (DeC). A peak of 70 was in Bremer Co. on 4 May (RLC).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** The first was a male at Fairfield on 11 May (DCP).

**Blackpoll Warbler:** The first was 1 on 24 Apr at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. (CE)[record earliest]. The peak was 16 on 11 May at Decorah (DeC).

**Cerulean Warbler:** The first was 1 on 24 Apr at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. (CE) and 5 were there on 7 May (CE). A female in Ida Co. on 14 May is unusual for western Iowa (PE). There were 10 other reports of 1-4 birds from Allamakee, Boone, Hardin, Johnson, Jones, Marshall, and Van Buren counties.

**Black-and-white Warbler:** The first was 1 on 21 Apr at Pony Creek P. in Mills Co. (JLF), and 1 was still at Mini-Wakan S.P. in Dickinson Co. on 31 May (SJD).

**American Redstart:** A male was at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 29 Apr (DeC)[2nd earliest]. There were 60 at L. Macbride and the Coralville Res. on 14 May (CE).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** The first was 1 on 26 April at Waterworks P. in Des Moines (RIC-details, DCD)[ties earliest]. There were 15 other reports of 1-4 birds from throughout the state.

**Worm-eating Warbler:** 2 were at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 24 Apr (THK, RIC, CE)[ties 2nd earliest] and there were 1 or 2 still singing there on 5-23 May (CE, JLF). Singles were at Cone M. on 10 May (PCP) and n of LeClaire on 18 May (Don Moeller fide PCP).

**Swainson's Warbler:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.



**Ovenbird:** The first were at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 23-24 Apr (RIC-details, CE). The most were 20 in Appanoose Co. on 14 May (RLC).

**Northern Waterthrush:** The first were 3 at the Coralville Res. on 26 Apr (CE). There were 10 at Effigy Mounds N.M. on 10 May (DeC).

**Louisiana Waterthrush:** 1 was at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 29 Mar (RIC-details)[record earliest]. In western Iowa, 1 was in Ida Co. on 10 May (PE-details). Ten other reports described 1-4 birds in Appanoose, Boone, Jones, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties.

**Kentucky Warbler:** There were more reports than usual. The first were 4 at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 5 May (JLF). The most were 6 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 8 May (CE). In northern Iowa, singles were in Clay Co. on 11 May (LAS), Yellow River F. on 14 May (FL), and Stone S.P. on 26 May (SJD).

**Connecticut Warbler:** The only reports were singles at Horse Grove W.A. in Wright Co. on 18 May (MPR-details), Hickory Hill P. on 20 May (JLF), and near Ledges S.P. on 22 May (SJD).

**Mourning Warbler:** 2 were singing on 30 Apr, at Decorah (DeC)[record earliest]. Others were 1-3 from 11 to 23 May in Boone (MPR), Van Buren (JLF), Ida (PE), Polk (JC), and Johnson counties (CE, RJH).

**Common Yellowthroat:** The first was 1 on 29 Apr in Dickinson Co. (JSi).

**Hooded Warbler:** Single birds were at Fairfield on 4 May (DCP-details), the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 5-14 May (JLF, CE, RIC), and at Mason City on 8 May, which was the first Cerro Gordo County record (\*RGo, CJF).

**Wilson's Warbler:** The first was on 9 May in Grundy Co. (MPR).

**Canada Warbler:** The first was at Grammer Grove W.A. on 13 May (MPR).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** The only report was 1 s of Polk City on 14 May (PHA/RIA).

**Summer Tanager:** There were 4 reports: 1 or 2 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 5-23 May (JLF), 1 in Louisa Co. on 14 May (PCP), 1 at Brown's Woods in Polk Co. on 22 May (SJD), and 1 at Wildcat Den S.P. on 25 May (EuA/EIA).

**Scarlet Tanager:** A male was at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. on 23 Apr (THK, RIC)[2nd earliest].

**Western Warbler:** A male was near Swan L. in Johnson Co. on 25-26 Apr (\*DLD, \*THK, \*JLF).

**Northern Cardinal:** This species was described as spreading from the riparian areas into the towns in northwestern Iowa (JV). A partial albino female was at Fairfield on 31 Mar (DCP).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** On 24 Apr, 2 were at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. (THK, RIC, CE)[ties 3rd earliest]. Another April record in northern Iowa was 1 at Mason City on the 30th (CJF).

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** A male was at Big Creek S.P. on 15 May (\*EuA/EIA).

**Blue Grosbeak:** There were 6 in Sioux Co. on 23 May (JV).

**Indigo Bunting:** The first was 1 on 30 Apr in Polk Co. (JC).

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** The first was on 10 Apr in Polk Co. (PHA/RIA).

**Chipping Sparrow:** The first was 1 on 27 Mar n of Iowa City (JLF)[ties 2nd earliest].

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** This species was widely reported this spring, with the first on 27 Apr at Cardinal M. (DeC). The last was on 14 May at Ledges S.P. (DT).

**Field Sparrow:** First were 3 on 23 Mar at Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP).

**Lark Sparrow:** On 18 Apr, 1 was in Warren Co. (AMJ)[ties 3rd earliest].

**Lark Bunting:** A report is referred to the Records Committee.

**Savannah Sparrow:** The first was 1 at the Saylorville Res. on 20 Mar (DT).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** From 2 to 10 were in Van Buren Co. on 5-8 May (JLF, CE).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** All reports were: 3 at Lakin Sl. on 14 Apr (THK), 1 in Fremont Co. on 16 Apr (THK), 1 at Hendrickson M. on 23 Apr (MPR), 1 near Hawarden on 30 Apr (JV), and 1 at Snake Creek M. on 21 May (SJD-details)[ties 3rd latest].

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** A single bird was seen at Chichaqua W.A. in Polk Co. on 20 May (SJD-details).

**Fox Sparrow:** Wintering birds were still present on 1 Mar at Sioux Center (JV) and n of Iowa City (JES). The last was on 2 Apr in Polk Co. (JC).

**Song Sparrow:** An "impressive wave" of migrants was noted on 20 Mar at the Saylorville Res. (DT).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** The first was on 10 Apr at Clive (JC).

**Swamp Sparrow:** The first was on 20 Mar at Moorehead P. (PE).

**White-throated Sparrow:** The last were 6-8 on 15 May at Woodland Mounds in Warren Co. (JSi).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** All 7 reports were from May, and noted only 1-7 birds.

**Harris' Sparrow:** Reports from eastern Iowa were 1-3 at L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. on 6-13 May (DeC) and at Fairfield on 2 May (DCP).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** The last was 1 on 8 May in Linn Co. (DLD).

**Lapland Longspur:** Flocks of 200 and 300 were in Louisa and Benton counties on 31 Mar (JLF).

**Smith's Longspur:** From 31 Mar to 9 Apr, a flock of 10-100 birds was near Cone M. (CE-details, PCP, THK, JLF, DRP, AMJ). There were 4-6 at Secret L. in Fremont Co. on 16-17 Apr (THK,

- BKP/LJP). Two road-killed birds were found e of Larabee in Cherokee Co. on 29 Apr; one is now at Iowa State Univ. (D. Koenig fide JJD).
- Snow Bunting:** 20 were in Kossuth Co. on 2 Mar (MCK).
- Bobolink:** The first on 8 May were singles at Grammer Grove W.A. (MPr) and Hickory Hill P. (DRP).
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** The first was on 8 Apr in Monona Co. (PE).
- Rusty Blackbird:** The first were 5 on 5 Mar in Warren Co. (AMJ). There were 200 in Lyon Co. on 23 Mar (JV). The last was 1 at Otter Creek M. on 17 Apr (DRP).
- Brewer's Blackbird:** 2 were in Louisa Co. on 7 Apr (PCP), and 1 was in Tama Co. on 9 Apr (AMJ).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** This species has greatly increased its population. There were 19 reports, all from wetland areas in the western third of the state. Birds also arrived earlier than ever, with 10 at L. Manawa on 5 Mar, and 36 there on 11 Mar (BKP/LJP)[record earliest]. Also early were 2 at Blue L. on 24 Mar (\*PE)[3rd earliest]. Other large groups were 10 at Goose L. in Greene Co. on 17 May (JJD) and 15 at Blue L. on 29 May (SJD). Five nests were at Blue L. (PE), and nest building was noted on 29 May at Dan Green Sl. (SJD).
- Orchard Oriole:** The first was 1 on 5 May in Lee Co. (JLF). Eight other reports described 1 or 2 birds throughout the state.
- Northern Oriole:** The first were 1 or 2 on 24 Apr at the Croton Unit of Shimek S.F. (THK, RIC, CE).
- Purple Finch:** The last was 1 at Lamb's Grove in Jasper Co. on 1 May (GJB).
- White-winged Crossbill:** An imm. male was at a feeder in East Davenport on 27 Apr (Mr. Cheney-photo seen by PCP).
- Common Redpoll:** Singles were at feeders in Liscomb on 8 Mar (MPr) and Sioux Center on 18 Mar (JV).
- Pine Siskin:** There were 6 May sightings: 2 were acting territorial on 22 May on the I.S.U. campus at Ames (PCP) and 2 were still at Algona on 24 May (MCK).
- Evening Grosbeak:** 5 were at the Schoff feeder in Linn Co. s of Mt. Vernon on 12 Mar (JLF, JES). A male was at the John King feeder in Marshalltown on 6 May (Betty Savage fide MPr).
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** 1 that spent the winter at the Geyer feeder near Oxford in Johnson Co. stayed until 15 May (Shirley Geyer fide JLF).

## COMMENT

The database totaled 1,557 reports from 45 observers, and 5 others provided documentations only. Most reports were received by the 5th, but a few were up to a week late. Most observers submitted details or documentations for rare birds, and those seen on early and late dates. There were a few that did not, and those records were not included in the report. Only those individuals who contributed to the report were cited, not others who were present. Thanks to Carl Bendorf for providing the weather summary and Tom Kent for his editorial assistance.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Eugene Armstrong (EuA), Booneville; Eloise Armstrong (EIA), Booneville; \*Robert R. Benedict (RRB), Spirit Lake; Dick Bierman (DBi), Cherokee; Brad Bolduan (BBo), Fairmont, MN; Gordon J. Brand (GJB), Newton; Marion M. Brewer (MMB), Cherokee; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC), Des Moines; Jane Clark (JC), Clive; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ames; Dan C. Dorrance (DCD), Davenport; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Peter Emzen (PE), Ida Grove; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; \*Charles R. Fuller (CRF), Burlington; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Dennis Henrickson (DH), Estherville; Richard J. Hollis (RJH), Iowa City; Bill F. Huser (BFH), Sioux City; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Fred Leshner (FL), LaCrosse, WI; \*John Mayfield (JM), Ames; \*Kelly McKay (KMc), Moline, IL; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE;



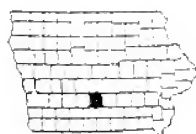
Peter C. Petersen (PCP), Davenport; Marietta A. Peterson (MAP), Walnut; D. Randall Pinkston (DRP), Iowa City; Diane C. Porter (DCP), Fairfield; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; James E. Scheib (JES), Iowa City; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Dale Stone (DS), Lake City; Ed Thelen (ET), Spirit Lake; \*Rob Thelen (RT), Carroll; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Jan L. Walter (JLW), Mason City; Hank Zaletel (HZ), Nevada.

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## ROCK WREN IN WARREN COUNTY

ANN JOHNSON

On the morning of 25 April 1993 I received a telephone call from David Youngblut of rural Indianola with the news that a Rock Wren was in his flower beds. I immediately went to the Youngblut home where I observed a small bird with a perky tail and chunky build. The bird's posture made it instantly identifiable as a wren, but it appeared larger than the more expected House Wren. It was gray-brown above with fine, dark spotting. The throat and breast were light gray with fine, gray streaks. The belly, flanks, and undertail were washed with bright buff. The undertail coverts were heavily barred. The brown tail was barred with black and had a black sub-terminal band with white to buff corners. The dark bill was long and slightly decurved. There was a light supercilary, but it was not as noticeable as in other wrens with this characteristic. The legs were dark. The bird did not spook easily and was searching for food in the crevices of the railroad ties outlining the flower beds. As it fed it exhibited much bouncing and bobbing behavior. It did not call. A number of Iowa birders were able to see and photograph the bird throughout the day, but it was not seen after the 25th.



Through 1982, there was only one acceptable record of Rock Wren for Iowa (Dinsmore et al. 1984). That observation was in Woodbury County on 1 April 1910. Early undocumented reports from the late 1890s to early 1900s suggest they may have nested in the loess hills near Sioux City. Later unsubstantiated reports came from the same general area. On 21 May 1984, Tom Kent and Ross Silcock obtained the first photographic evidence of Rock Wren in Iowa when they discovered one in a rock cut in Woodbury County (Kent and Silcock 1984). The dry, rocky areas of the loess hills certainly seemed to be the most likely place for a Rock Wren appearance, both in habitat and proximity to its usual range.



*Rock Wren, Warren County  
25 Apr 1993*

*Photograph by Ann Johnson*

Since that 1984 sighting, there have been five observations of Rock Wren in Iowa. None of these have come from northwestern Iowa, although the habitat where they were found is somewhat similar to the rocky areas of the West where they are commonly found. On 30 October 1986 one was observed hopping around a rocky embankment in Cedar Rapids (Fye and Fye 1987). That same year another was seen in the rip-rap along the face of Saylorville Dam from 22 November through 8

December (Padelford and Padelford 1987). Two years later a Rock Wren was again observed by many from 8 to 28 November 1988 in the rip-rap along the Cherry Glen boat ramp at Saylorville Lake (Dinsmore 1989). On 17 September 1991 a surprised David Carlisle found two Rock Wrens in Red Oak. Although the birds were in his garage, he noted that suitable rocky habitat was nearby (Carlisle 1992). The Warren County bird was somewhat of an enigma since the Youngblut residence is on an acreage surrounded by some timber and heavily cultivated land. Perhaps the extensive railroads ties in their yard simulated the rocky areas typically used by Rock Wrens.

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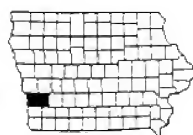
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## CALIFORNIA GULL AT CARTER LAKE, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

TANYA E. BRAY

On the morning of 21 November 1993, Jerry Toll called to inform me that he had seen a California Gull at Carter Lake near the Omaha airport. When I arrived, Jerry had the gull in view in his scope. It was swimming on the lake about 200 feet from us in company with approximately a dozen Ring-billed Gulls and a few Herring Gulls. At this distance, we could see that the California Gull was slightly larger than a Ring-billed Gull, definitely smaller than a Herring Gull, and with a mantle a shade darker than both. The bird swam and preened until a Bald Eagle flew over, and all the gulls lifted off the water. The California Gull flew toward us, and circled along the shoreline no more than 25 feet away. The wings and mantle were medium gray colored. The outer two primaries were black with fairly large square white spots near the tip. Both the inner and outer primaries had small white spots on the tips of the feathers. The head was white with some thin dark brown streaking on the crown, hindneck, and nape. This streaking was heavier and much more noticeable on the hindneck. Most importantly, the eye was dark, and the bill was very different from a Ring-billed Gull. It was long, more slender than a Herring Gull's bill, and was dull gray-yellow with a bright yellow tip. The lower mandible had a red spot near the gonys with a black rectangular-shaped spot on front of the red. A narrow strip of black extended from the black spot onto the upper mandible. Proximal to the black spot was a smudgy area of red-black. Toll described the legs as grayish in color. The bird flew up the shoreline, caught a fish, and ate it. It then flew behind an island in the lake and out of sight.



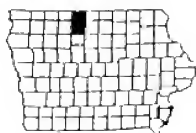
The size, eye color, bill shape and coloration, and mantle color clearly identified this bird as a winter-plumaged adult California Gull. The bird remained in the area until 23 November 1993, was seen by many observers, and was photographed by B. J. Rose (see cover). Carter Lake is an enclave of Iowa enclosed by Nebraska. The center of the lake is the state line; thus the eastern side of the lake is in Nebraska, and the western shore in Iowa! This is the fourth record for Iowa, and the first to be confirmed by photographic evidence. Previous records are an adult seen at Credit Island on 23 November 1989 (Petersen, *Iowa Bird Life* 61:121-122, 1991), an adult at Saylorville Reservoir on 8, 14-23 September, 11 October 1990 (Dinsmore, *Iowa Bird Life* 62:24-25, 1992), and a first-year bird at Coralville Reservoir on 27-28 October 1990 (Kent, *Iowa Bird Life* 61:123-124, 1991). This species is becoming increasingly common in western Nebraska and is to be expected more frequently in Iowa in the future.

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## GLOSSY IBIS IN KOSSUTH COUNTY

MATTHEW KENNE

Both the Glossy Ibis of the Gulf and southeastern Atlantic Coasts and the White-faced Ibis of the West wander extensively; there are reports of Glossy Ibis from many locations in the West, and there is a White-faced Ibis breeding record from Iowa (Dinsmore and Dinsmore 1986). This tendency, coupled with the fact that the two species are very difficult to identify outside the breeding season, make any ibis seen in Iowa a challenge to identify. Several purported Glossy Ibis sightings have been considered by the I.O.U. Records Committee, but none have been accepted.



On 6 May 1992, I received a report that two ibis had been photographed the previous day at Union Slough N.W.R. in Kossuth County. I combed the area on 7 May but could not find the birds, nor were they seen there again. I then checked with the refuge headquarters, where I learned that Assistant Refuge Manager Bobbi Webber had photographed two ibis at the same location on 4 May. She had assumed the birds to be White-faced Ibis, rare birds on the refuge, but didn't document the sighting. I left a message asking if I could examine her slides when they were developed.

I then contacted David Bunkofske, an amateur nature photographer from Burt, Iowa about the photographs that he had taken on 5 May. He had recognized the birds as ibis, but had not identified them as to species. He agreed to show me the prints as soon as possible.

When I saw Bunkofske's photographs a week later, I was surprised to see two different looking adult ibis. In the best photo, one bird was obviously a White-faced Ibis; it had a red eye and face, a wide band of white feathers around the face (encircling the back of the eye), and bright red legs. The other bird was very interesting. What appeared to be a narrow band of light blue surrounded a facial area without red coloring. This bird looked like a Glossy Ibis.

I thought that the second bird was a Glossy Ibis but I first had some problems that needed to be addressed, not the least of which was my total lack of experience with Glossy Ibis. The photographs also presented a few problems. The bird's face was slightly in a shadow, and the bird itself was moving and slightly blurred in the

photo. The legs were dark at the joints instead of red. And most bothersome of all, there was a strange pale area where the upper and lower facial borders came together that looked like it could be white feathers behind the eye. I had no references to the transition from non-breeding to breeding plumage in the Glossy Ibis, and, although I believed that the bird was a Glossy Ibis, I thought that it possibly could be a White-faced Ibis in less-than-full breeding plumage.

In early fall 1992, I obtained Bobbi Webber's slides taken on 4 May. One slide clearly showed the bird in question, but from too great a distance to view the face in detail. The face was well lit however, and when I examined it with a 100 power microscope, I found the key feature of the Glossy Ibis listed by Kaufman (1990) evident. There was no pale area behind the dark eye. The pale-bluish facial border was narrow where it crossed the forehead above the upper mandible, widened between the bill and the eye, and then narrowed as it approached the top of the eye. It resumed at the bottom of the eye and continued narrowly to the base of the lower mandible. This set of characteristics strongly suggested that the bird was a Glossy Ibis, the first for Iowa.

Unfortunately, I made the mistake of not submitting a documentation with the photos and slides, so although the committee received prints of the Webber slides, they mainly looked at the much clearer view in the Bunkofske photo.

In May 1993, the Records Committee decided to have some outside experts review the slides. Robert Janssen, Editor of *The Loon* examined the prints and also showed them to Bruce Fall who had reviewed a report of a Glossy Ibis at Heron Lake, Minnesota (less than 100 miles from Union Slough) in May 1991 (Janssen 1992). This in-depth review of the Bunkofske photo (including measuring the position of the "pale spot" in relation to head width as compared to other ibis photos) concluded that the pale area was a sunlit highlight of the eye, and not white feathering behind the eye.

J. V. Remsen, Curator of Birds at the Museum of Natural Science, Louisiana State University said that the bird in the prints was "absolutely, unquestionably Glossy Ibis." He went on to say, "The Glossy, wings upheld, shows all critical features of the face pattern, particularly the narrow whitish skin border below and the bluish-white "visor" line above" (pers. comm. to T. H. Kent, I.O.U. Records Committee, 21 Oct 1993).

Finally, a year and a half after the sighting, an off-hand remark heard in a grocery store led to Iowa's first conclusive record of Glossy Ibis. It is also interesting to note that Glossy Ibis were reported on 3-4 May 1992 in Kansas (Grzybowski 1992) and on 5-10 May 1992 in Wyoming (Kingery 1992), the first records for both states.

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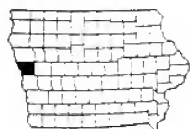
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# RED KNOT IN MONONA COUNTY

PETER ERNZEN

On the evening of 12 May 1994, I was returning from an engagement at Decatur Bend. I decided to check out southeast Blue Lake for shorebirds. Earlier in the day I had observed large numbers of shorebirds on the north side of the lake.



Upon arriving at the southwest corner, I scanned the shoreline. I immediately noticed large flocks of shorebirds flying about on the east side of the lake. I drove to the south side and walked toward the birds. Due to the sun's glare, I decided to walk to the north to a point that offered much better lighting conditions. There the birds were much clearer and easier to identify.

Among the birds that were there, one, due to its odd coloring, immediately attracted my attention. While sitting, the bird displayed the following characteristics; general colors light gray and white, light gray eyeline, gray back and head, white belly, chin, and face. The bill was black, thin, and slightly down turned at the end. Other features included a scaly looking feather pattern on the scapulars. I was able to observe the bird for a considerable amount of time and approached to within 15 feet.

When the bird flew, I noticed a white wing stripe and a finely barred tail and rump. Upon returning to my vehicle I jotted down my notes and returned to the Monona County Conservation Center. I suspected that I had just seen a Red Knot. When I compared my notes with several handbooks available in the office, I was able to eliminate three other possibilities. This bird was not as gray as a Dunlin, and the bill did not have such a pronounced downward curvature. Its neck was not long enough and its head was too large to be a Stilt Sandpiper. The smaller peeps were eliminated due to the bird being 25-50 percent larger than a nearby Baird's Sandpiper.

Knowing that this would be the third spring sighting for Iowa, I tentatively identified it as a Red Knot. I then contacted Jim Fuller and related my sighting to him and placed it on the Iowa Birdline. However, to the best of my knowledge, no one else saw the bird at Blue Lake.

The next day, I wrote my narrative and made a line drawing of the bird. Two details about this bird made it initially difficult to identify. These were the slight down turn at the end of its bill and the molting sequence from basic to breeding plumage. Most illustrations and books indicate that this species has a straight bill. Several publications however, do mention a slight down turn in the bill, a feature that can be seen only at close range. The molting sequence is still a puzzle, as there should have been reddish feathers on the breast simultaneous with the appearance of the dark centers of the feathers on the scapulars. I still don't know why the reddish colored breast was not present, but perhaps this bird had just begun its molt when I found it.

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## I.O.U. BUSINESS

### SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

*Ames, Saturday, 21 May, 1994, 3:30 p.m.*

ANN BARKER, PRESIDING

On behalf of the I.O.U., Barker offered thanks to our local hosts, the Big Bluestem Audubon Society, with special thanks to Jim Dinsmore, Maridel Jackson, Jane Clark, Hank Zaletel, Barb Bettis, Steve Dinsmore, and Mark Proescholdt.

The minutes for the September 1993 business meeting had been published in *Iowa Bird Life*; it was moved (Jim Fuller, seconded by Hank Zaletel) to approve them as published. Motion carried.

Treasurer Pam Allen reported that the organization is in good financial shape. The budget for 1994 was approved in November by the Board of Directors.

#### Committee Reports

**Records:** The past year has been quite productive. Records for 1993 are finished, and work has begun on 1994 records. 250 old records were reviewed, and 20-30 were rereviewed. All records have been organized and filed in triplicate. The photo file has been completely reorganized and preserved. In addition, all field reports dating back to 1970 were filed by species. The 1993 annual report will be published in *Iowa Bird Life*. The committee will meet in July.

**Membership:** Newly appointed to the committee are Beth Brown and Laura Jackson.

**Publications:** John Fleckenstein has succeeded Pete Petersen as chair. The budget report for *Iowa Bird Life* showed that costs were less than expected for the year.

**Library-Historical:** The committee needs to fill some expired terms. Members were urged to contact Jim Dinsmore if they would be interested in serving. Hank Zaletel continues to contribute historical materials to the archives.

**Breeding Bird Atlas:** A timetable has been established for completion of the final layout of the book by 15 December. Species accounts are almost done. Publication alternatives are still being explored. A \$12,000 commitment from the D.N.R. must be spent this fiscal year.

**Big Day:** No report.

**Educational Booklet Promotion:** The 1994 budget will cover a reprinting. Slight revisions are planned prior to that. Only 10 books remain.

**Spring Count:** Against the recommendation of the committee, but following the membership's suggestion, the board voted to establish the date of the count permanently on the same date as the national count. It was held on 14 May 1994. Preliminary information indicated better participation than last year.

**Field trips:** The Cone Marsh trip in April was very well attended. Dates for upcoming trips include 25 September to Snake Creek Marsh, and 12 November to southwestern Iowa.

**Code of Ethics:** A proposed Code of Ethics was distributed to the membership with the last issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. After discussion, it was moved (Rick Hollis, seconded by Gloria Foster) that the code be accepted as proposed. Motion carried.

**Birdline:** The birdline can now be heard over the City Line in Waterloo and Cedar Rapids. The annual report revealed a sixth straight year of an increase in calls, but the number of reports has declined. The board agreed to seek volunteers from each area of the state to call in a weekly report each Sunday evening. A sign-up sheet was circulated.

#### Old Business

**Upcoming meetings** The fall meeting has been set for 28-30 October at Pella, with Ann Johnson in charge of arrangements. The spring meeting will be held in Ida Grove on 19-21 May. Pete Ernzen is making arrangements. The fall 1995 meeting will be held in the Davenport area; after a straw poll it was decided to hold it 8-10 September.

Pam Allen investigated the possibility of having window decals made. A show of hands indicated a high level of interest. It was decided to order 1,000.

**Review of Board action:** At recent meetings, the Board of Directors

1. approved the following nominees to standing committees

Records - Ross Silcock (00)

Membership - Ann Johnson (95)

Beth Brown (95)

Diane Porter (96)

Laura Jackson (96)

Publications - Harold White (98)

2. voted to provide a meeting attendance scholarship (to cover registration, meals and membership for one year) to a student in the community where the meeting is to be held, with the student to be selected by the local host.
3. voted to provide verbal support and offer the technical expertise of our membership to two D.N.R. projects. (a) a Wildlife Viewing Guide, and (b) a study of neotropical migrant birds in northeastern Iowa.
4. voted to pay any exhibition fee charged for using our display at Bald Eagle Days around the state.
5. voted to provide a one year complimentary membership to recipients of the Myrle Burk scholarship.
6. asked Tom Kent to draft a proposed constitutional amendment to clarify the election process.

#### New Business

Election of officers took place with the following elected to office: Mary Kuhlman, secretary; Pam Allen, treasurer; and Tim Schantz and Beth Brown, Board of Directors. Barker thanked the nominating committee composed of Bob Cecil, chair, Francis Moore and Diane Porter.

Dues for 1995: The Board of Directors reviewed the dues structure and recommended no change for next year. It was moved (Jim Fuller, seconded by Hank Zaletel) to accept the board's recommendation. Motion carried.

#### Announcements

Jim Dinsmore reminded members to send their spring field reports to Jim Fuller. He also indicated that the next issue of *Iowa Bird Life* will include data for both the Christmas and Spring bird counts.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

*Ames, 21 May, 1994, 5:00 p.m.*

Present: Ann Barker (presiding), Jim Fuller, Pam Allen, Mary Kuhlman, Bud Gode, Ann Johnson, Rick Hollis, Tim Schantz, Beth Brown, and John Fleckenstein.

The proposed constitutional change drafted by Tom Kent was reviewed. The proposal clarifies the election procedure. On a motion by Hollis (seconded by Gode), the board voted to propose the amendment to the membership as follows:

Under ARTICLE IV--OFFICERS, Section 2, replace the second sentence with:

After serving two consecutive terms (excluding partial terms), a member is not eligible for reelection to the same office until one full term has elapsed.

Under ARTICLE VIII, Section 4, replace the entire section with:

The order of election shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Board members. The election for each position shall be carried out separately except for the election of Board members, which shall be considered together. In each case, the presiding officer shall ask for additional nominations from the floor and not in any way allow or suggest limitation of nominations until no more are forthcoming. In order to be nominated at the meeting, the nominee must agree to serve, either by prior consent to the nominator or directly at the meeting. If only one person is nominated or, in the case of the Board of Directors, the number matches the number of positions available, the presiding officer shall declare such persons elected. Otherwise, a vote shall be taken by secret ballot among members present at the meeting. A candidate receiving a majority vote of those voting is elected. If needed, a runoff vote will be among the two candidates with the most votes (and ties). In the election for Board positions, each member present may vote for as many candidates as there are positions available. If needed, the runoff vote will be among twice as many candidates (and ties) as there are positions left to be filled.

The proposed amendment will be published in the newsletter and considered by the general membership at the fall meeting.

A request to purchase the mailing list was received from former I.O.U. member John Robinson. It would involve a one-time mailing to advertise a computer birding program. It was moved (Hollis, seconded by Fuller) that the list be released for a one-time use for the cost of labels. The motion carried 4-1.

Jim Fuller had received a letter seeking our support from an individual proposing a hunting ban on white waterfowl in eastern Iowa, with specific concern for Snow and Ross's geese in the Mississippi



flyway. It was suggested that the decline of these species might be an excellent topic for a future meeting presentation by a D.N.R. biologist. No action was taken.

The D.N.R. has requested our financial support of a project to publish a "Watchable Wildlife Viewing Guide" for Iowa. The board has already voted to give its general support to the project and to volunteer the expertise of I.O.U.'s membership. Following discussion, it was moved (Allen, seconded by Fuller) to donate \$1,000 to the project. The motion carried.

The fall board meeting was set for Sunday, 6 November at Tim Schantz' home at Lake Red Rock.

## CODE OF ETHICS

### IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

- I. Iowa Birders should act in ways that do not endanger the welfare of birds and other wildlife and should minimize their effect on the environment. To this end we should:
    - A. Observe and photograph birds without disturbing them in significant ways.
    - B. Not repeatedly chase or flush individual birds.
    - C. Use recordings and similar devices sparingly, especially in heavily birded areas or known locations of individual birds.
    - D. Stay away from nests and roosts.
    - E. Stay on existing paths, trails, roadways, etc in fragile environments.
    - F. Leave the habitat in as good a condition as we found it or better.
  - II. Iowa Birders should respect the rights of others. We should:
    - A. Obtain permission to enter private property, whether posted or not.
    - B. Follow posted rules on public and private properties.
    - C. Observe all laws, rules, and regulations of public or private birding areas and report violations to appropriate authorities.
    - D. Leave gates and fences as found.
    - E. Limit requests for permission or information to reasonable times of the day.
    - F. Allow those who come after to have the same opportunity to observe birds.
    - G. Behave in a manner that will enhance the image of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union to others.
  - III. Iowa Birders in groups have special responsibilities.
    - A. Group members should:
      1. Act in consideration of the group's interest as well as their own.
      2. Support the leader of the group.
    - B. Leaders should:
      1. Assume responsibility for the conduct of the group.
      2. Limit group sizes so as not to threaten the environment.
      3. Teach others birding ethics by word and example.
  - IV. Iowa Birders recognize the importance of research projects to further our knowledge about birds. We should:
    - A. Encourage workers in the field to conduct their research in such a manner as to limit disturbances to birds or the environment.
    - B. Encourage our members to participate in research projects.
    - C. Not knowingly interfere with research projects.
- Adopted by Iowa Ornithologists' Union membership, 21 May 1994

